

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01098 090720Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1098

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ETRD, US, LY
SUBJECT: U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. HEAD OF MOBIL OIL LIBYA, CARL BURNETT, HAS BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER ON LENGTHY CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH LIBYA'S AMBASSADOR TO UN MANSOUR KIKHYA AUGUST 7. MEETING TOOK PLACE AT VERY SMALL SOCIAL GATHERING AT HOME OF HEAD OF LIBYAN FOREIGN OFFICE UN DESK, NAJIB SHAYBANI, WHO IS NEIGHBOR OF BURNETT. KIKHYA, WHO CURIOUSLY IS RESIDING AT LIBYA PALACE HOTEL DURING TRIPOLI VISIT, EXPECTS TO RETURN TO NEW YORK ABOUT SEPTEMBER 9 VIA A STOP IN EUROPE. SHAYBANI WILL ALSO BE THERE AT TIME IN PREPARATION FOR UNGA. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF WHICH OTHER LIBYAN OFFICIALS MIGHT ATTEND UNGA.

2. KIKHYA SAID THAT DURING RECENT SOCIAL EVENT GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY GOVERNOR EDWARDS OF LOUISIANA, HE HAD INVITED GOVERNOR TO VISIT LIBYA. LATTER HAD ACCEPTED AND WAS EXPECTED HERE IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

3. MOST OF KIKHYA'S REMARKS FOLLOWED A PREDICTABLE COURSE. HE LAMENTED THAT FOR "TWO YEARS" HE HAD BEEN DENIED A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. HE APPARENTLY DID NOT MENTION LETTER FROM QADHAFI HE HAS WISHED TO PRESENT,
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01098 090720Z

BUT HAD WANTED TO DISCUSS SUCH TOPICS AS THE C-130'S, BOEINGS AND OSHKOSH TRUCKS. KIKHYA PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND WHY LIBYA WAS BEING "KICKED AROUND" SO MUCH BY U.S. HE HAD THE FEELING THAT LIBYA WAS BEING MADE A "SCAPEGOAT" AND WHILE THIS MIGHT BE GOOD POLITICS IN THE U.S. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO THE LEADERSHIP IN LIBYA. KIKHYA SAID LIBYANS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS PERHAPS MOST XENOPHOBIC

PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, WISH TO BE INDEPENDENT OF EVERYONE.
U.S. TREATMENT OF LIBYA, HE SAID, IS CAUSING A "SIEGE
MENTALITY" IN THE LEADERSHIP AND "DRIVING US INTO A
CORNER." HE SAID IT IS EASY TO "MISINTERPRET" LIBYAN
GOVERNMENT. HE ASSURED BURNETT THAT IT IS NOT COMMUNIST,
BUT U.S. ACTIONS ARE "DESTROYING ITS FLEXIBILITY AND
INDEPENDENCE." KIKHYA REPORTEDLY REVERTED TO THESE
THEMES SEVERAL TIMES IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION.

4. ON BOEINGS, KIKHYA STILL APPEARED TO BE OPTIMISTIC
THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REVERSE ITS ORIGINAL POSITION.
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